



NEWSLETTER

01404 812599 Thursday 9th July 2020. Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are all still keeping well and staying safe.

On Monday another 5 pupils came back to school and our final numbers for returning to school are:

Reception: 23 out of 29 (79%)

Year 1: 22 out of 32 (69%)

Year 6: 25 out of 32 (78%)

We are sad not to be able to have more children back in school properly before the end of the school year but are keeping to the guidance for this year and are pleased that our current arrangements for Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and children and Key Worker are as safe and effective as they could be.

SEPTEMBER RE-OPENING

We are really pleased that the Government released their guidance on Thursday 2nd July about plans for September and that we can welcome ALL children back to school in September, which is great news! The guidance states '*The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased, our NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and we are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safe environments within schools.*'

Please be aware that the guidance also states '***School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term and the usual rules on school attendance will apply.***'

There are a significant number of restrictions and important points in our new guidance, which we will now be able to work towards implementing, such as:

- Access to the site from visitors, including parents and carers, should still be restricted
- Movement of children around school should be minimised
- Children, as far as possible, should still work in class 'bubble' groups and not mix across classes/ year groups.
- Gatherings such as assemblies or open classroom events will not be able to take place for a while longer
- Staggered start and finish times should be considered to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school and minimise congestion at the beginning and end of the day.
- It is recommended that staff and pupils have their own items that are not shared. Classroom resources such as books and games can be used and shared within the bubble but must be cleaned frequently and meticulously between bubbles.
- Pupils still need to limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials only.
- Frequent handwashing and hand sanitising will still be expected for all children and staff.

- In classrooms, it will be important that schools improve ventilation, (for example, by opening windows)
- Curriculum planning should be informed by an assessment of pupils' starting points and addressing gaps in their knowledge and skills.

These are measures which are already in place for the children who are in school but will now need to be adjusted to allow for full opening. We will keep you posted with more detail as we make our plans, but cannot wait to welcome the children back to school!

The parent/carers guidance for the full opening of schools, early years and colleges can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=6%20July%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

CAR PARKING ISSUE

Unfortunately our caretaker has had his car door marked whilst parking in the Village Hall car park this week presumably as another car door next to him was opened. Please can you all be extra careful opening your car doors and ensure that they do not bang into anyone else's. If you are parked close to another car, please supervise young children with getting out safely. Thank you.

SAFE CYCLING TO SCHOOL

Please can you remind your children of the need to cycle safely if they are cycling to and from school. We have had reports of near misses from parents who have managed to avoid a collision with children not paying attention to traffic on the roads or even cycling on the right side of the road!

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SCHOOL

Please ensure that you use admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk when contacting the school by email and no other email address. The email address that the newsletter and other messages are sent from westhill-pri@scopay.com is not a monitored mail box for incoming emails.

Thank you.

TERM DATES FOR 2020-21

We have attached next years' term dates for your information. Please ensure you consult this before booking any holidays for 2020-2021.

FINDING CHILDCARE AND SUMMER PROVISION

If you are looking for childcare and summer provision, please visit the Pinpoint Site. If you cannot find childcare you need, you can complete the Unable to Find Childcare Form and the Early years team will then arrange for one of their team to contact you. Updated information on those settings that will be open in the Summer holidays will also be posted on the Devon County Council website soon. Please note this is parent funded provision.

END OF TERM-WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY

On the last day of term we usually invite parents into school for a family picnic on the school field and finish at 1.30pm. Unfortunately with the current situation we will not be able to hold such a mass gathering this year which we are all very sad about. We are also very mindful that children have only been back in school since 2nd June and many parents are still juggling working from home with home schooling.

With this in mind, we plan to work a normal school day on Wednesday 22nd July and finish at the usual time (3pm for Reception, 3.15pm for Year 1 and 3.30pm for Year 6) in order to support you all as much as we can.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL REPORTS

Our end of year reports will be given out at the end of the day on **Friday 17th July** to pupils currently in school (we will also send home reports for any siblings who may not be in school.)

If your child is not currently in school, their report will be posted to you.

There will be a covering letter with the reports explaining some differences this year such as no Year 2 or Year 6 SATS and no Year 1 Phonics Screening. Schools have been asked not to report their end of year data to the local authority in the usual way. Although some children started returning from 2nd June, the information in the reports will be based on observations and assessments held before school closed for lockdown.

Under the circumstances, with the exception of Year 6, I have decided to remove the Head Teacher comments box on reports this year. Although this is a job I usually do, it is very time consuming and at the moment my time will be better spent finishing up the busy school year and preparing for the changes we face in September.

TROPHIES

Due to the lockdown, there are still quite a few trophies that weren't returned to school before the Easter break. Please could you keep these in a safe place and return to school when your child returns in September.



NEW MUSIC LESSONS FROM SEPTEMBER

Sharon Andrews of SJA Music is a versatile and talented singing and Piano teacher with many years experience in all realms of music teaching. She can offer singing, piano and keyboard lessons:



-20 minute individual lesson £110 per term

-30 group lessons for singers only £90 per term

She brings an energy and joy to all she does and will encourage and enthuse your child at any level of music ability. If interested please contact the school or

Sharon directly: 07988452451 email sjamusic@mail.com

THE 2020 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE IS HERE!

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'. Each year the Challenge, delivered through public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence. Last year more than 14,000 children across Devon and Torbay took part.

With the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge will launch as a digital activity to keep children reading over the summer and support parents and carers with children already at home. The Challenge will run from June to September.

This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, celebrates funny books, happiness and laughter and features bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang; Evil Emperor Penguin; I Don't Want Curly Hair). Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books!

The digital Challenge is free to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading-related activities at home. Although our library buildings are closed we have boosted the number of children's books available to borrow via our e-lending platforms which can be accessed from our Devon Libraries and Torbay Libraries websites. From July we will also be hosting lots of Silly Squad events and activities on our Facebook pages, so look out for those!

With school life disrupted and many children missing the company of their friends, this year's fun-filled Summer Reading Challenge will be all the more vital as a way of helping parents and carers find fun, family-friendly activities, maintain literacy levels and create a safe space for children to connect with their peers.

Ottery St Mary Library and Information Centre

PRIMARY TIMES DEVON & PLYMOUTH

The Primary Times magazine would like to offer parents links to virtual things to do and learning for children. The contributors will all be from the local community and economy. The idea being to offer a regular update and refreshed information throughout the summer as and when they receive it. To sign up to these emails please visit: <https://mailchi.mp/e6fba174f4c0/sign-up-to-the-primary-times-devon-newsletter>

Have a lovely weekend.

With my best wishes



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher